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is small. Its ideal use is in parallel with some form of complement fixation reaction—where the two tests can be used as a check on one another.

T. E. O.

SERUM DIAGNOSIS BY COMPLEMENT FIXATION. Pp. xix + 583.
Figures 65. Messrs. Balliere, Tindall and Cox. 1929. 31s. 6d.
net.

(Preliminary Notice.)

THIS is surely the last word on the subject. In a volume running to nearly 600 pages the author has dealt with every detail of his subject. Naturally, the greater part of the book deals with syphilis, but complement fixation in many other diseases—notably gonorrhoea, typhoid fever, tuberculosis and a host of others—is also dealt with. From a wide experience and an enormous number of experiments Professor Kolmer speaks with authority. He treats his subject in an orderly manner, taking each reagent of the Wassermann and discussing it freely; perhaps his chapters on antigens are the most valuable, since these represent the key to the reaction. The author's own test appears to be a very elaborate one, somewhat complicated and time consuming, but there can be no doubt that it combines sensitiveness with specificity in a high degree. One cannot help feeling that equally good results with a saving of time might be obtained by using a simple complement fixation test in parallel with a highly sensitive precipitation test, such as the "presumptive" Kahn. Professor Kolmer, however, is not writing from a purely utilitarian point of view, but treats his subject scientifically, and those who take the trouble to read his book will find many of the problems involved, if not solved, at least made easier. At last the long list of diseases which may give a "false positive" Wassermann reaction is swept away—only Yaws is left.

The sections on complement fixation in diseases other than syphilis are rather curtailed, but the preparation of the various antigens is given, and the competent serologist can work out the rest fairly easily.

The book is written primarily for the laboratory worker, who will find an immense amount of information to interest and instruct him, but the clinician who has to deal with syphilis will gain a clear insight into the Wassermann reaction and what it means if he will study its pages with care. The bibliography given at the end of each chapter is voluminous, though British authors might have received more attention.

The book is admirably produced, binding, printing and paper all being excellent, and both author and publishers are to be congratulated.

T. E. O.

SYPHILIS. By Charles C. Dennie. Harper's Medical Monographs.
Harper and Brothers, New York and London. 1928. Pp. 304.

IN this small and handy volume the author has managed to present a vast deal of useful information. It is an extremely well-balanced book. The descriptions of the various lesions of syphilis in the different

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organs and tissues of the human body are set forth in a particularly lucid manner. The author is to be congratulated in not having sought to illustrate cutaneous lesions by means of drawings or uncoloured photographs. As a matter of fact, the only lesion pictured is that of the teeth in congenital syphilis—and that is extremely good.

The book can be highly recommended to students and practitioners, and even the specialist will find it well worthy of perusal.

E. T. B.